

Message Text

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43

ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 L-03 SSO-00 /011 W

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O 131731Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2304

UNCLAS PARIS 21738

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC: S/S FRANCE

SUBJECT: LAST SAILING OF S/S FRANCE CANCELLED

1. PARIS HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMPAGNIE TRANSATLANTIQUE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE LAST SAILING OF S/S FRANCE SCHEDULED SEPT. 13 CANCELLED. DECISION TAKEN FOLLOWING STRIKE OF SHIP'S CREW WHICH BEGAN AS VESSEL ARRIVED OFF LE HAVRE SEPT. 11. S/S FRANCE IS NOW ANCHORED IN CHANNEL AT HARBOR ENTRANCE.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY SEVERAL OF THE HUNDREDS OF US TOURISTS WHO HAD PLANNED DEPART ON S/S FRANCE TODAY.

3. COMPAGNIE TRANSATLANTIQUE IS ASSISTING PASSENGERS TO EXCHANGE TICKETS FOR BOOKINGS ON OTHER SHIPS AND ON PLANES. NEXT PASSENGER SAILING IS SEPT. 18 ON RAFFAELLO FROM CANNES. GIVEN WILLINGNESS OF COMPANY TO MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY, EMBASSY IS HOPEFUL THAT MOST PASSENGERS WILL MAKE ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS QUICKLY.

4. EXCEPT FOR SUGGESTION THAT EMBASSY CHARTER PLANE TO FLY PASSENGERS TO US, INQUIRIES HAVE GENERALLY BEEN SOLICITING INFORMATION. EMBASSY HAS KEPT IN CLOSE

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CONTACT WITH TRANSAT AND IS SEEKING ASSIST PASSENGERS

AS APPROPRIATE.

IRWIN

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NNN

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